

CA1

L56

-64508



LIBRARY

SEP 13 1961

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

SAFETY INSPECTIONS

ACCIDENT PREVENTION SERIES No. 8

issued by

**Government Employees Compensation
Branch**

Canada **Department of Labour**
1961

**Hon. Michael Starr
Minister**

**George V. Haythorne
Deputy Minister**

SAFETY INSPECTIONS

Safety inspections are a necessary and vital part of any well-rounded accident prevention program. They are the means of alerting those charged with the prevention of accidents to be on guard and to do something about potential hazards before accidents and personal injuries occur.

The inspection of parts of a manufacturing process is an important function in quality control, similarly, safety inspections are of vital importance in accident control.

As you know, when there has been an accident there has been an unsafe condition or there has been an unsafe practice or a combination of both. The finding of unsafe conditions or unsafe practices by means of inspections and their prompt safeguarding is one of the best methods for administration to demonstrate to the workers its interest and sincerity in accident prevention. Likewise, failure to correct promptly unsafe conditions destroys worker confidence in the employer's sincerity.

Also, inspections help to sell the safety program to the employees. Each time an inspector or an inspection committee passes through a work area, administration's interest in safety is advertised. Regular plant inspections will encourage individual employees to inspect their own immediate work areas.

In addition, inspections enable the personnel of the safety organization to come in contact with individual workmen and to enlist their aid in eliminating accidents. Frequently, the workmen are able to point out unsafe conditions that may otherwise go unnoticed and unguarded. When such suggestions are acted upon and proper safeguarding is completed, the employee realizes that he has contributed to the safety of the establishment or work area and that his participation is appreciated.

It should be kept in mind that safety inspections are not conducted primarily to find how many things are wrong but rather to determine if everything is satisfactory. The whole purpose should be one of helpfulness in discovering conditions which, if corrected, will bring the establishment up to accepted and approved standards and result in making it a safer and more healthful place in which to work. An establishment benefitting from an effective safety program will have a working environment in which operations can be conducted economically, efficiently and safely.

A large number of unsafe conditions are the result of objects wearing out through prolonged use—and sometimes abuse.

- The side rails of ladders and their rungs develop cracks and become weakened.

- Ropes become frayed and worn.
- Power transmission belts deteriorate.
- Stair treads get worn or broken, and so on.

This means that unsafe conditions are continually being created by the work of people and machines. It also means, of course, unless steps are taken to detect and eliminate such conditions, accidents will inevitably result.

Many unsafe conditions are the result of employee action. No matter how well trained workmen may be, they will on occasion cause unsafe conditions. Material may be piled where someone may stumble or trip over it or it may be stored in a hazardous manner.

- Guards may be removed but not replaced.
- Hand tools may be left in a defective condition.

Here again, is a continuing source of unsafe conditions—pointing out why safety inspections are an absolute necessity.

Unsafe conditions have been likened to water leaking into a boat. If the water isn't continually baled out, the boat will be swamped—left uncorrected,—unsafe conditions will grow in number. The result—a high injury rate.

Not only must the establishment be inspected for unsafe conditions but workmen must be observed to

see if they are working safely. We know that unsafe practices occur even among well trained men—men who know better. Unsafe acts may be the result of:

- Lack of knowledge or skill.
- Improper motivation (for various reasons men appear to prefer the unsafe way.)
- Defective capacity (unsafe acts may be due to physical conditions such as poor eyesight, lack of coordination, worry, etc.)

Safety is everybody's business; consequently, in the accident prevention program responsibility for safety inspections is broadly shared.

Members of the safety organization must be continually on the alert for unsafe conditions and practices. All employees should be encouraged to report unsafe practices and conditions as they come to their attention. Certainly, all supervisors and foremen should have a well defined responsibility for the inspection and safe maintenance of equipment within their area.

ROGER DUHAMEL, F.R.S.C.
QUEEN'S PRINTER AND CONTROLLER OF STATIONERY
OTTAWA, 1961

Cat. No. L2-19/8